

property right enforcement, to the continued dumping and transshipping of textiles, to the subsidizing of their steel industry. China also manipulates their currency, the yuan, in order to gain an unfair competitive advantage.

These unfair trade practices seriously jeopardize many United States industries, including the textile and steel industries. The textile industry has been hit particularly hard by unfair trade with China. Since 1997, more than 250 textile plants in the U.S. have closed. With quotas on textile and apparel set to be totally phased-out on January 1, 2005, it is not unrealistic to expect even more job losses and factory closings in the textile industry. Quotas are set under the Multifiber Arrangement, MFA, an international agreement that allows countries to impose quotas on the level of goods imported from individual supplier countries. The MFA was designed to prevent a worldwide crisis in textile and apparel trade. Specifically, it was needed to keep very low wage producing nations from overwhelming global markets.

If these quotas are lifted, China is poised to control 70 percent of the textile and apparel market share. Allowing China to dominate world markets in this sector will result in the devastation of many third world economies, resulting in widespread economic and social instability.

If the goals of the World Trade Organization are to increase global prosperity and economic advancement through orderly trade, and especially to advance the development of the third world through orderly trade flows, we have to ask ourselves the following question: Does our current trade policy with China help further those goals, or will it continue to cost millions of United States' manufacturing jobs and undermine global advancement in general and in the third world specifically?

With the expiration of the quotas, the United States will see even more of the products they buy manufactured in a country that allows their workers to be treated poorly. Workers in Chinese factories suffer serious, routine and ongoing abuse at the hands of their employers. Health and safety conditions almost always fail to meet Chinese law or international standards, and workers regularly work illegally long hours for overtime pay that is not calculated according to law. Chinese workers also face harsh disciplinary measures and the use of heavy fines for minor infractions of factory rules.

We need to let China know that if they keep dumping and transshipping textiles, permanent quotas will be put in place. If China continues to steal intellectual property rights, they will find themselves before every WTO tribunal that exists. One of the best investments the U.S. ever made was spending billions of dollars during the Cold War to prohibit the spreading of communism. We need to show similar strength when it comes to standing up

against China's communist dictatorship that trades unfairly, oppresses its people, and bleeds our economy dry.

What I would like to see my country do, Republican and Democrat, is to ask the Chinese to stop cheating; to try to persuade the Chinese government through international organizations such as the WTO, to stop stealing market share and become a better member of the Family of Nations. There's a lot of resistance to any idea about change. Our opponents argue that current trade policy is appropriate because of the fact that it may reduce prices to consumers. This is only true if you review what hidden costs we are paying. Such costs include: over 3 million lost manufacturing jobs in the past 5 years, frozen wages, health and pension benefits for workers that have managed to remain employed, shrinking tax base for Federal, State and local government. Maybe the greatest cost, however, is to our national security. There is no doubt that the United States was the single greatest military power in the 20th century because of its industrial strength. If we make China the new industrial superpower, will that not translate into China becoming the single greatest military power of the 21st century?

The large economic growth China has experienced over the last several years is not going to the average Chinese citizen. In fact, it is estimated that just 0.16 percent of the Chinese population controls 65 percent of the nation's U.S. \$1.5 trillion liquid assets in the Mainland bank deposits. The income distribution in China is likely to be the most unequal in the world. Rather than using this economic growth to help China's 800 million rural residents who earn the equivalent of just 80 cents per day, it is going to their military disproportionately.

Today, China is the world's largest purchaser for foreign military weapons and technology. China's defense industry has become far more productive in the last five years and improvements can be expected as the Chinese economy continues to grow. China is now more than doubling its budgeted defense spending this year as part of an aggressive military modernization strategy. And some European countries are even pushing the European Union to lift the arms trade embargo on China. What I considered at one time to be a regional problem is a national security problem.

Rigged and unfair international trading rules are a key cause of the U.S. manufacturing crisis. China's unfair trade practices are costing United States jobs and jeopardizing our manufacturing base. They have shown that they are not yet committed to participating in a rules-based global trading system and are not yet willing to make the necessary steps to transition into a market-based economy.

China continues to manipulate the currency markets to keep the dollar artificially high and its own currency,

the yuan, artificially low. By playing the currency market in this manner, China effectively subsidizes their exports to the U.S. and places a tariff on U.S. shipments to China. This mercantilist practice has caused serious damage to the U.S. manufacturing sector. The U.S. Congress must take action.

Senator CHARLES SCHUMER and I have introduced legislation that would require China to adopt a market-based system of currency. The goal of this legislation is to remove China's unfair currency advantage and the detrimental impact that it is having in the U.S. and abroad.

Something must be done to alleviate the detrimental economic impact China is having on our manufacturing industry. I urge the Leadership to allow a clean vote on this important legislation. I believe it will receive overwhelming bipartisan support and give the administration one more tool to get the Chinese to uphold their WTO obligations.

#### MOTORSPORTS FACILITIES FAIRNESS ACT

Mr. ALLEN. Mr. President, I rise today to express my strong and enthusiastic support for S. 1524, the "Motor-sports Facilities Fairness Act." This legislation would properly clarify and codify the classification of a "motor-sports entertainment complex" as 7-year property for depreciation purposes. The legislation would define a "motorsports entertainment complex" as a permanent facility that hosts one or more racing events each year that are sanctioned by a nationally recognized sanctioning body. I was an original cosponsor of S. 1524, when my colleague, Senator SANTORUM, introduced it last July 31.

Virginia is home to twenty-seven motorsports facilities, ranging from the one-eighth of a mile Natural Bridge Dragstrip to such NASCAR Nextel Cup facilities as Richmond International Raceway and Martinsville Speedway. These tracks are found in every part of the Commonwealth, from Coeburn in Southwest Virginia, to Manassas in Northern Virginia to Norfolk in Hampton Roads. Every track makes a contribution to the economy, whether they run a weekly racing series, or draw over 100,000 fans for a Nextel Cup event.

The importance of these tracks for jobs and economic growth in Virginia was illustrated in an April 21, article in the Washington Times, by Jeffrey Sharpshott, entitled, "Virginia City Seeks 'Something Else.'" This article described the significant positive impact of motorsports and the Martinsville Speedway on the area's economy: "Martinsville, next-door neighbor to North Carolina, also tried to latch onto the rising popularity of auto racing and NASCAR. The town parlayed its speedway into a tourist draw. It opened a small community-

college program to teach future auto-team mechanics and managers. Kyle Petty, a team owner and driver, donated automotive parts. Tobacco commission funds allowed Patrick Henry Community College, the county's lone institution of higher learning, to retool a derelict building into headquarters for a motor-sports training program and to rev up the curriculum. "We're actually getting people jobs," motor-sports instructor Mike Sharpe says, standing among brightly painted car bodies, reinforced racing frames, powerful engines and high-tech calibration equipment."

The Motorsports Facilities Fairness Act would provide certainty to track and speedway operators regarding the depreciation of their properties. This common sense proposal is necessary to allow these facilities to continue to enhance local and regional economies and to contribute to job growth.

The Motorsports Facilities Fairness Act responds to the recent decision of the IRS to question the long-standing depreciation treatment of motorsports complexes used by facility owners. For decades, motorsports facilities were classified as "theme and amusement facilities" for depreciation purposes. This long-standing treatment was widely applied and accepted, until now. Over the years, relying on this good faith understanding of the tax law, facility owners and operators invested hundreds of millions of dollars in building and upgrading these properties.

S. 1524 would merely allow the track owners to classify these facilities for tax purposes in the same way that they have done, without question, for years, or in some cases, decades.

I urge the Senate to "green flag" the process on this winning measure. Approve S. 1524, the Motorsports Facilities Fairness Act. Let's wave the "checkered flag" for jobs, economic growth and logic.

#### RACETRACK DEPRECIATION

Mr. NELSON of Florida. Mr. President, I rise today to address an issue important to my State, and to a growing number of Americans: Motorsports. Born in Daytona Beach, racing today is the fastest growing sport in the country and has given birth to an economy unto itself.

With 38 track and speedway facilities in locations throughout Florida, including two of the Nation's larger tracks—Homestead-Miami and Daytona International Speedways—motor-sports contribute nearly \$2 billion annually to Florida alone.

Simply put, these tracks, whether large or small, create jobs and expand tourism.

The Internal Revenue Service has allowed these facilities to depreciate their property over a 7-year period. Now they are challenging this long-standing industry practice and treating racetracks differently than other entertainment complexes.

That is simply unfair and will have a dire economic effect, discouraging the capital investments that these facilities rely on to improve their product and attract the legions of fans that have been so valuable to small towns across the country.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting prompt enactment of S. 1524, the "Motorsports Fairness Act" to clarify that these facilities are indeed 7-year property for purposes of depreciation.

#### 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE INTERNATIONAL REPUBLICAN INSTITUTE

Mr. MCCAIN. Mr. President, tonight we will mark a historic occasion—the 20th anniversary of the International Republican Institute. I am honored to chair the Institute's board of directors, and to have been involved for 14 years with an organization that has done so much for so many. Its staff of experts, under its leadership in Washington, has for two decades fanned out across the globe, bringing the benefits of their experience and education to those who hunger for democracy. For 20 years IRI has worked to advance democracy, promote freedom and self-government, and support the rule of law and human rights. In doing this, IRI embodies the fundamental values on which the American political system is based, and which we must encourage around the world.

Why do we spend energy, money, time and expertise to promote freedom and democracy abroad? We do it because we know that, as Ronald Reagan said in 1982 when he cited the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, "freedom is not the sole prerogative of a lucky few, but the inalienable and universal right of all human beings." In America, we enjoy the fundamental right to be free. But we also know that we will never enjoy our rights in the fullness of security until all of humanity is also free.

The promotion of democracy and fundamental human rights is thus an inextricable element of American foreign policy. We use our power not simply to enhance our security, but to promote our values—for the good of others. For 20 years IRI has monitored elections, trained political candidates, promoted government reform, helped organize civil society, and increased political participation. Its mission is vital, and IRI has performed it with success in over 75 countries.

Anyone who reads the newspapers can see how critical this mission is today. Iraq is the biggest democracy project in a generation, and IRI is active on the ground, making a difference on a daily basis. Beyond Iraq, there is a growing recognition that the lack of freedom in the Greater Middle East offends not only America's national values, but also threatens our security. In other regions too—Central Asia, Southeast Asia, and others—freedom is lack-

ing. When we confront these situations, the diagnosis is easy. The hard part is taking action. IRI takes action. Promoting democracy is a huge task—one IRI does superbly—and calls will only increase for it to do more.

I am confident it is up to the job. For 20 years the individuals who make up the International Republican Institute have made a positive difference in the world. While these are not the type of people to rest on their laurels, we should all recognize that these laurels are well deserved.

#### 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SALK POLIO VACCINE FIELD TRIALS

Mr. ALLEN. Mr. President, I have always been one to support innovation. It is with the innovative researchers of this Nation and the world that have provided us with some of the greatest contributions in history. Inventions such as the computer, the Internet, the automobile, the airplane, and vaccines have transformed the world as we once knew it, to the world that we live in now.

I would like to take a moment and recognize yesterday's event commemorating April 26, 2004, as the 50th Anniversary of the Salk polio vaccine field trials, a truly significant day for our Nation.

On April 26, the March of Dimes and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, commemorated the 50th anniversary of the development of the Salk polio vaccine along with several other organizations. This day in April holds great significance for the nation as it was that day in 1954 that the first dose of the Salk vaccine was distributed to children at Franklin Sherman Elementary school in McLean, VA as part of the National Field Trial Program. In the months that followed, more than 1,800,000 school children, collectively referred to as "Polio Pioneers", participated in these trials.

The outcomes of these field trials were truly significant. Reports indicated that the Salk vaccine was 80-90 percent effective in preventing polio and in the four years following the trials, medical personnel administered 450 million doses of the vaccine, making it a standard fixture among childhood immunizations. By the end of 2003, poliomyelitis had been eliminated world-wide in all but 6 countries. The result of this vaccination—nearly 5 million children have been given the ability to walk who would otherwise have been paralyzed and 1.25 million childhood deaths have been averted.

The Salk polio vaccine is a great contribution to our nation and to the entire world. While poliovirus was eradicated from the United States by the early 1980's, it continues to exist in the wild in a limited number of regions around the world. Nevertheless, the World Health Organization has set 2005 as the target date for complete, global eradication of the virus. It is through the unwavering support and undying